

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 PA-01

SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 H-02

NSC-05 EB-07 OC-06 CCO-00 /081 W

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R 201422Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4307

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

DIRNSA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAFE

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSANVEUR LONDON

COMSIXTHFLEET

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 5558

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MARR, TU

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON GOT PROVISIONAL STATUS RESTRICTIONS

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS A RESUME OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND PERSONNEL IN TURKEY. AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REMOVE OR ALLEVIATE A GOOD NUMBER OF RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE JULY 25, 1975 PROVISIONAL STATUS. WE SEE LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF REMOVING THE PRINCIPAL REMAINING RESTRICTIONS, HOWEVER, UNTIL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL
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OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA). END SUMMARY

2. OPERATIONS. PRIMARY MISSION OPERATIONS AT THE FOUR INTELLIGENCE SITES AND AT KARGABURUN LORAN STATION REMAIN, OF COURSE, SUSPENDED. COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ARE CONTINUING UNIMPEDED AS ARE AIR OPERATIONS FROM INCIRLIK WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THIRD COUNTRY FLIGHTS, WHICH REMAIN SUSPENDED. ROUTINE MAINTENANCE IS BEING PERFORMED ON EQUIPMENT NOT UTILIZED BECAUSE OF SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH TGS REPRESENTATIVES DURING JULY 14-17 INSPECTION EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES COULD BE PERFORMED IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD NOT AROUSE SUSPICION OF RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS, WE FORESEE NO FUTURE DIFFICULTY IN THIS FIELD.

3. CUSTOMS. RESTRICTIONS IN JULY 25, 1975 PROVISIONAL STATUS AND IN AUGUST 8, 1975 CUSTOMS CIRCULAR HAVE BEEN EASED TO SOME EXTENT IN THAT IZMIR PORT IS NOW BEING USED WITH TACIT GOT APPROVAL AND THAT PRIOR CLEARANCE IS NOT RPT NO REQUIRED FOR FOODSTUFFS. RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF POL OFFLOADING FACILITIES AT YARIMCA HAS CAUSED POL DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS AND A CONCOMITANT INCREASE IN COST OF POL, BUT, SINCE IT WAS CLOSED BY CABINET DECISION, WE FORESEE NO POSSIBILITY OF REOPENING IT UNTIL DCA IS APPROVED. GOT BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES AND POOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ANKARA AND FIELD OFFICES CONTINUE TO CAUSE OCCASIONAL DELAYS IN CUSTOMS CLEARANCES, PRIMARILY AT ISKENDERUN AND YAMURTALIK. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED, HOWEVER, OF SOME IMPROVEMENT IN CARGO CLEARANCE PROCEDURES AT ISKENDERUN AND ARE HOPEFUL THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. AT KARAMURSEL, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS HAVE PLACED RESTRICTION ON NUMBER OF OUTGOING AND INCOMING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND HOLD BAGGAGE SHIPMENTS, CLAIMING THEY DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL TO HANDLE VOLUME OF HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS SHIPMENTS.

3. LANDING FEES. DISPUTE OVER LANDING FEES HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED BUT IS NOT RPT NOT SIGNIFICANTLY RESTRICTING AIR OPERATIONS. TGS IN SEPTEMBER 1975 RECOMMENDED THAT LANDING AND PARKING FEES SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CHARGED FOR U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT LANDING AT JOINT CIVILIAN/

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MILITARY AIRPORTS. SUBSEQUENT TO TGS RECOMMENDATION AIR ATTACHE OFFICE HAS RECEIVED BILLS ONLY FOR MILITARY LANDINGS AT CIVILIAN AIRPORTS (ANKARA'S ESENBAGA, ISTANBUL'S YESILKOY AND SAMSUN). ON MARCH 10, 1976 DHMI (THE CIVILIAN AIRPORT AUTHORITY) SENT A LETTER TO AIR ATTACHE OFFICE ASKING FOR PAYMENT OF LANDING FEES FOR MONTHS OF JUNE THROUGH OCTOBER 1975, TO BE PAID WITHIN ONE WEEK. EMBASSY NOTED SEVERAL DISCREPANCIES IN BILLINGS

(E.G., ONE WAS FOR A U.K. AIRCRAFT) AND SENT LETTER TO DHMI SO NOTING. DHMI MADE CORRECTIONS AND RESUBMITTED BILLS FOR PAYMENT, BUT WITHOUT A DEADLINE. EMBASSY PRESENTED COPY OF LETTERS TO MFA STATING THAT USG POSITION ON PAYMENT OF LANDING FEES WAS WELL KNOWN AND THAT USG WAS NOT PREPARED TO PAY THEM. MFA OFFICIAL SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER. SINCE THEN, AIR ATTACHE HAS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE BILLS FOR LANDING FEES AND FOR OVERFLIGHTS, BUT HAS RECEIVED NO FURTHER DUNNING NOTICES WITH DEADLINES FOR PAYMENT. WE HAVE HAD NO FURTHER COMMUNICATION ON LANDING FEES WITH MFA, PREFERRING TO LEAVE MATTER QUIESCENT.

5. APO. WHILE APO LETTER MAIL IS FLOWING SMOOTHLY, OUR EFFORTS TO REINSTITUTE PARCEL SERVICE IN WAKE OF DCA SIGNING AND PARTIAL LIFTING OF EMBARGO HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. AMBASSADOR HAS PERSONALLY APPROACHED FOREIGN MINISTER SEVERAL TIMES ON THIS ISSUE (LATEST BEING WITH SFRC STAFFDEL ON JULY 13). FOREIGN MINISTER HAS APPEARED SYMPATHETIC, BUT NO TANGIBLE RESULTS HAVE ENSUED. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE INSTEAD SUGGESTED THAT PARCEL SERVICE MIGHT BE RESUMED BEFORE DCA ENTRY INTO EFFECT ONLY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS (SUCH AS CUSTOMS EXEMPTIONS ONLY FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF AN

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R 201422Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4308

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 5558

INDIVIDUAL'S TOUR), WHICH WE BELIVED WOULD SET UNACCEPTABLE PRECEDENT AND WHICH WE THEREFORE REJECTED. DURING SFRC STAFFDEL VISIT WE WERE ONCE AGAIN GIVEN ORAL ASSURANCE BY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS YAVUZALP THAT APO RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE LIFTED WHEN THE DCA ENTERS INTO EFFECT.

6. BASE EXCHANGES AND COMMISSARIES. THE BASE EXCHANGE AT ANKARA IS STILL CLOSED ALTHOUGH SOME EXCHANGE SERVICES ARE PERFORMED FROM A SMALL "FOODLAND." OTHER
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EXCHANGES IN TURKEY CONTINUE TO OPERATE BUT ARE, OF COURSE, UNABLE TO SELL AUDIO EQUIPMENT AND MAJOR HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES. ALL COMMISSARIES ARE OPERATING WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS.

7. CONSTRUCTION. ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL PROHIBITION ON NEW CONSTRUCTION, PROJECTS UNDERWAY HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO CONTINUE. COSTS DERIVING FROM IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND ABROGATION OF TAX RELIEF MEASURES CONTRIBUTED, HOWEVER, TO DECISION TO TERMINATE FURTHER CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING PROJECT AT INCIRLIK.

8. AMONG THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE PLAGUED US IN THE PAST BUT WHICH EITHER HAVE BEEN RESOLVED OR ARE NO LONGER SIGNIFICANT ARE:

A. STATUS OF JUSMMAT PERSONNEL - IN NOVEMBER 1975, TGS REVERSED ITS EARLIER POSITION THAT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO JUSMMAT WERE NOT COVERED BY NATO/SOFA AND WERE THEREFORE SUBJECT TO TURKISH CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

B. DUTY CERTIFICATE CASES - AS WITH THE STATUS OF JUSMMAT PERSONNEL, THE TGS LEGAL DEPARTMENT INITIALLY

TOOK A POSITION THAT DUTY CERTIFICATE AGREEMENT WAS NO LONGER IN EFFECT. BY FEBRUARY 1976, TGS HAD BACKED OFF THIS POSITION AND DUTY CERTIFICATE CASES ARE BEING PROCESSED IN SAME MANNER AS BEFORE IMPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL STATUS. SINCE SOME TURKISH JUDGES BELIEVE THAT ALL AGREEMENTS INCLUDING NATO/SOFA HAVE BEEN ABROGATED, DUTY CERTIFICATE PROBLEMS MAY ARISE IN PARTICULAR COURT CASES. WE ARE CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT TGS WILL CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO DUTY CERTIFICATE PROCEDURES.

C. RESIDENCE PERMITS - WITH THE IMPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL STATUS, FEES FOR RESIDENCE PERMITS WERE INCREASED TO A POINT WHERE A SERVICEMAN WITH SEVERAL DEPENDENTS COULD HAVE BEEN PAYING WELL OVER \$100. UNDER JUSMMAT PRESSURE, THE GOT IN DECEMBER 1975 REDUCED THE FEES TO THE PREVIOUS LEVEL. THIS IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM.
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D. ACCESS - JUSMMAT HAS WORKED OUT PROCEDURES WITH TGS WHICH IN EFFECT PERMIT RELATIVELY UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO U.S. BASES BY OFFICIAL PERSONNEL. THERE HAVE BEEN LOCAL INCIDENTS IN WHICH THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN FOLLOWED BUT THESE HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT WITH LITTLE DIFFICULTY.

E. VISAS - PRIOR TO PROVISIONAL STATUS, THE GOT DID NOT REQUIRE VISAS FOR DEPENDENTS OF U.S. MILITARY AND OF U.S. CIVILIAN COMPONENT. UNDER PROVISIONAL STATUS, SOME LOCAL AUTHORITIES INSISTED THAT VISAS WERE REQUIRED FOR DEPENDENTS. THIS REQUIREMENT, HOWEVER, WAS NOT UNIFORMLY APPLIED. IN DECEMBER 1975, THE GOT PUBLISHED A DIRECTIVE THAT WAS SENT TO ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES SETTING OUT IN DETAIL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF U.S. PERSONNEL IN TURKEY. VISAS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR DEPENDENTS OF DOD PERSONNEL.

F. POV REGISTRATION - FROM JULY UNTIL DECEMBER 1975 TURKISH AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT PERMIT REGISTRATION OF ANY PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES. AFTER EMBASSY AND JUSMMAT REPRESENTATIONS, POV REGISTRATION RESUMED IN ANKARA IN DECEMBER 1975. IT WAS NOT UNTIL MAY 1976 THAT POV REGISTRATION WAS PERMITTED AT KARAMURSEL. POV REGISTRATION PROBLEM IS CONSIDERED RESOLVED.

G. BEYANNAME TRANSFER - PRIOR TO JULY 25, 1975, MILITARY PERSONNEL COULD BUY AND SELL POV'S AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AMONG THEMSELVES HAVING THESE ITEMS TRANSFERRED FROM ONE PERSON'S BEYANNAME TO ANOTHER'S. THESE BEYANNAME

TRANSFERS WERE PROHIBITED UNDER PROVISIONAL STATUS.
AFTER REPRESENTATION AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING SEVERAL
BY AMBASSADOR, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARRANGED FOR
BEYANNAME TRANSFERS TO RESUME IN MAY 1976.
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